

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1115 without my signature.

This bill would revise the distribution of federal Land and Water Conservation (LCWF) dollars, which are currently a dedicated source of federal funds allocated to the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Boating and Waterways, and the Department of Parks and Recreation and, instead, require these funds to be allocated through a competitive grant program that would also include nine state conservancies within the Natural Resources Agency.

I recognize that these nine state conservancies currently do not have access to federal LCWF dollars, which are provided to states to encourage and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. However, the state agencies to which these federal funds are currently dedicated rely on them to help fund quality outdoor recreational projects. Furthermore, these agencies have also experienced deep cuts in their budgets due to the state's current fiscal situation. As such, I cannot authorize redistributing this federal funding at this time.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger